

THE WORLD

UN WELCOMES PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

New York. Chairman of the Special UN Committee Against Apartheid, V. Maitama-Sule of Nigeria, has made a statement in which he welcomes the decision to hold a conference of West European parliamentarians next November to discuss sanctions against the racist regime in Pretoria.

The conference proposed by members of the Dutch Parliament will be convened within the framework of the UN-proclaimed International Year of Mobilization to introduce sanctions against South Africa.

INDIRA GANDHI VISITS

MAURITIUS AND MOZAMBIQUE

Delhi. India and Mauritius have expressed grave concern over militarization of the Indian Ocean. They have called for greater efforts to ensure an immediate implementation of the UN Declaration proclaiming the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

In a joint communiqué published at the end of an official visit to Mauritius by the Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, the two countries have called for a cessation of any further manufacture of nuclear weapons which present the most serious threat to mankind. At present, the document notes, prevention of the threat of nuclear war is one of the priorities of disarmament.

DANISH PREMIER FOR NUCLEAR-FREE NORTH

Reykjavik. The Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen has spoken in favour of preserving Northern Europe as a nuclear-free zone.

Addressing a press conference in the Icelandic capital, where he has been on an official visit, A. Jorgensen noted that during his talks with the Prime Minister

of Iceland Gunnar Thoroddsen, they had discussed the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe. A. Jorgensen drew attention to the fact that smaller countries can also contribute towards the solution of this problem, the Danish Ritzau news agency reports.



Drawing by Yu. Ivanov

QUOTATION OF THE DAY

"Israel has exposed itself morally. Its rulers have shown their real face. The whole world has winced at the insanity of the Israeli leaders who rely solely on the force of arms. I refuse to have anything to do with this Israel, I can no longer act as a go-between in the Middle East, because I do not stand between, but on the side of the persecuted and the oppressed".

Bruno KREISKY, Federal Chancellor of Austria

VIEWPOINT

NEW DANGER OF ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The American evaluation of the situation in Southern Africa has sounded optimistic on more than one occasion. In Washington, for instance, hints were dropped recently that a change might occur in the position of the United States and South Africa in favour of the "frontline" states. Several times specific dates have been named for the cessation of hostilities in Namibia.

In effect, however, these encouraging noises turned out to be further attempts to mislead the world public and to camouflage the real state of affairs. If reports from Washington are anything to go by, the 15th August should have seen the end of the war between South Africa and the militant detachments of SWAPO, the Namibian liberation organization confronting it.

However, it turned out that the purpose of all this talk was to get SWAPO to renounce its armed struggle and to take advantage of such a renunciation in order to liquidate the organization. While Washington was diverting the world's attention, Pretoria sent tens of thousands of soldiers and mercenary units on their payroll against the Namibian patriots. Supported planes and tanks, they also invaded Angola along a wide front.

While Washington was talking about the search for common ground with the independence

countries in Southern Africa, Pretoria succeeded in putting its 30,000-strong army in a key position poised for an attack against Mozambique, and stepping up the training of subversive groups and sending them across the border into the "frontline" states.

Making a joint effort, the United States and South Africa have given a fresh boost to attempts by traitors from different splinter organizations to destabilize the internal situation in these countries. Reports coming from Pretoria speak about hundreds of "terrorists" killed in Namibia and Angola. From previous South African operations of this sort, one may deduce that these are civilians from the two countries murdered by the punitive troops. As to SWAPO and the "frontline" states, such methods to "cause" hostilities only strengthen their resolve to seek independence for Namibia and to ensure their own security by every available means.

SWAPO and the "frontline" states have done everything possible to achieve the successful implementation of this programme; they have made all possible concessions, barring those detrimental to their sovereignty or to the legitimate rights of the Namibian people. Only one obstacle remains — Pretoria's resistance, as well as an unwillingness on the part of the United States and its Contact Group partners to break its obstinacy, taking into account their close economic and other ties with South Africa, they have sufficient leverage to do this.

In its plans, Washington is counting not only on the support of its NATO allies, but also on the situation which, it hopes, is becoming favourable for the American policies in the "Third World". Some time ago, "The Washington Post", for instance, wrote that the anti-American coalition between the "underdeveloped countries" was collapsing, and this helped the US administration to impose their demands which the newspaper understandably described as "blackmail".

However, despite all these allegations, it is in the countries of the Third World, beginning with South Africa, that the situation remains invariably tragic.

While Washington was talking about the search for common ground with the independence

VIETNAM'S PROPOSAL

Hanoi. The Vietnamese foreign ministry has appealed to the Chinese to allow the residents of the border areas of the two countries to celebrate "in normal conditions" the national holidays of the two countries — September 2 in Vietnam and October 1 in China. In a note addressed to the Chinese foreign ministry, the Vietnamese side proposes to cease all military actions on the border between August 27 to October 8 this year.

On August 25, the Vietnamese government has already given its troops along the border an order to this effect. Vietnam has called on the Chinese government to give a positive response to this initiative and to order the Chinese armed forces to stop all military actions on the border between the two countries.

BOLD GUARD WAR GAMES BEGIN SOON

Bonn. The HQ of the German headquarters in Kiel, West Germany, has announced that the Bold Guard war games involving American, British and Dutch troops will take place on September 1-5. The exercises will cover the territory of North Europe, with 47 thousand troops, 1,500 armoured personnel carriers, 350 planes and helicopters and 50 ships taking part.

Reporting this, the DPA West German agency emphasized that these games will be preceded in conjunction with the Northern Wedding naval exercises which are due to be held in September over the vast area of the Atlantic, and the Baltic and Norwegian seas.

Particularly in view of the build-up of tensions in Southern Africa, what is happening there is reminiscent of the critical stage in the Middle East situation, which was followed by the present tragedy of Lebanon and the plight of the Palestinians who found shelter in that country. All this may happen again in another place, with another odious American ally taking part unless the ominously smouldering conflict not extinguished.

The world community has formulated a programme for settling the problems of this Southern African region. Its points are: the complete withdrawal of the South African troops from Angola, American and South African commitment to refrain from interference in the domestic affairs of the countries in the region and from attempts to dictate to them where they should look for their friends and how to maintain their relations with these friends. It also called for the immediate implementation of the UN plan for Namibian independence.

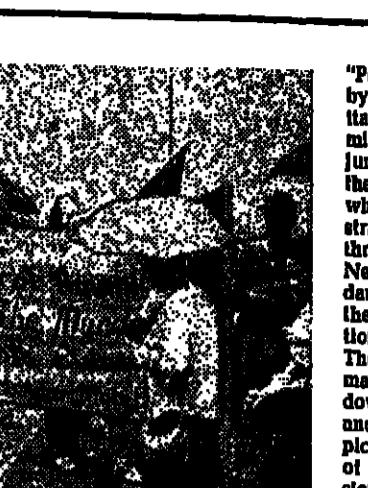
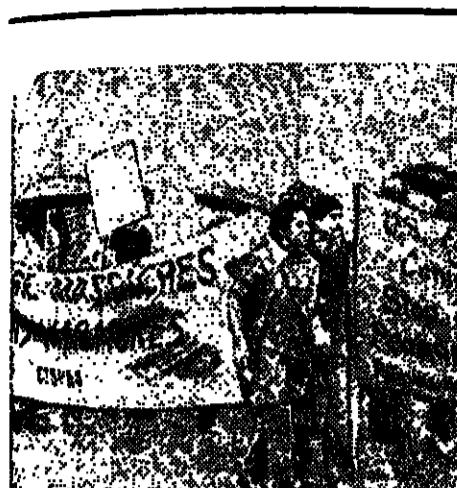
Today, Washington demands, on behalf of the Contact Group, that Angola gives up the help of its friends in defending its sovereignty. It wants SWAPO to completely hand over the fate of Namibia. It would like the "frontline" states to stop giving their assistance to the Namibian patriots and to the victims of the South African aggression. It would rather they put up with the regime of racism and apartheid in South Africa.

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The events in Southern Africa are developing in a direction which threatens not only the independence of Africa, but also peace throughout the world. Urgent measures must be taken to stop this tendency and to prevent further bloodshed and the military rule of the racists.

MIN INFORMATION No. 68, 1982

THE WORLD



STATISTICS OF U.S. MILITARY AID REVEALED

New York. According to secret information which has leaked from the US Department of Defense to "The Philadelphia Enquirer" newspaper, in the first three months of this year the United States sent weapons to Israel at a total cost of 217 million 695 thousand dollars. This is ten times as much as in the first three months of 1980 and 40 per cent more than over the same period last year, stressed the paper.

INDIA PROTESTS OVER HIGHWAY

Delhi. The Indian government has protested to Pakistan about the signing of the Sino-Pakistani protocol to open a new section of the strategic Karakoram Highway in the area of the Khunjerab Pass crossing part of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir occupied by Pakistan.

Over the past seven years, the population of Paris has declined by 131,500, the number of people living in the French capital (excluding its suburbs) now stands at 2,168,300. The largest ever population for Paris — 2,906,000 — was recorded in 1921.

Over

The West German Statistic Agency reports that there were 1,476 bankruptcies in the country over the first six months of this year, a 30 per cent increase on the corresponding period of last year.

Over

JAPAN AND CHINA AGREE ON CREDITS

Tokyo. After two days of talks, Tokyo has agreed to grant Peking a 65-thousand-million yen credit for the purchase of equipment from Japan.

According to "Tokyo Shimbum", the Chinese delegation has agreed that the documents on credits should be signed in Peking by the Japanese Prime Minister Z. Suzuki during his visit to China next month.

Over

Specialists from the American weather service have suggested that over the next six months the weather in the northern hemisphere, including Europe, must worsen somewhat, with temperatures falling by 0.5 degrees on average and the rainfall increasing. They say the reason for this is the eruption of a volcano in South America.

Practical observations have shown that the method corresponds well to the characteristics of the Cuban climate.

PEOPLE

American film producer Robert Evans appeared in court in New York charged with the illegal possession of a large amount of cocaine. After hearing the case, the jury have decided to acquit Evans of producing cocaine in his home. He is to show in graphic detail the irreparable damage which drugs cause to Evans several hundred thousand dollars.

Over

SOUTH-EAST ASIA: RAW MATERIALS FALL IN PRICE

Bangkok. The Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, A. M. S. Kibria, has said that the falling prices of raw materials and agricultural produce could have serious consequences for the economic development of the South-East Asian countries.

He noted that since January 1981, the price of teapoco has fallen by 50 per cent. Other commodities with falling prices include honey, natural rubber, the cashew balance, in the avocados fruit, 20 per cent less than in most while they are much cheaper in the height of the season. The pupa consists of much less per cent of regular butter fat and is not inferior to butter in food value. Among the

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

NO TO CONFRONTATIONS ON THE HIGH SEAS

The Soviet Union has invariably opposed the militarization of the seas and oceans. It does not regard it as an ideal situation that the navies of great powers sail for long periods far away from their own shores. It is ready to tackle this problem provided it is done on terms of equality and mutual security, says Vasili Ovchinnikov, PRAVDA's political observer, commenting on the proposals made by the Soviet Union at the Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament.

The author notes that the USSR and other countries of the socialist community have set themselves a goal: curb the intensifying military confrontation on the high seas and to achieve a situation whereby in the near future most of the world's oceans would be declared a peaceful zone. Despite opposition from militant imperialist circles, the task of containing the confrontation on seas is within the realms of possibility, says Vasili Ovchinnikov.

THE 'BIG STICK' POLICY

Washington's Latin American policies are analysed in ZVESTIYA which records that the resolution adopted by Congress about the Reagan administration's intention to resort to any measures, including military means, to stem "the Cuban aggression" in the Western Hemisphere, is aimed not only against Cuba, but also threatens those countries in Central America and the Caribbean which have chosen an independent course of development. Having adopted this document the United States has actually assumed the right for military intervention in those countries which refuse to yield to imperialist dictates.

The paper draws attention to the fact that today the threat of a military intervention is hanging over Nicaragua. The United States is openly intervening into the affairs of El Salvador and is threatening Grenada. Washington is deliberately intensifying tensions in the Central American and Caribbean area and obviously hopes to prepare favourable atmosphere for a military invasion on any country so as to install a despicable regime after overthrowing the legitimate government.

WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO USTINOV'S INTERVIEW

The US administration is doing all it can to prevent answers, which the USSR Defence Minister, Dmitry Ustinov, gave to TASS correspondent, from reaching the average American reader, says TASS in its report from Washington. It is obvious that what the United States does not like about the interview is the fact that it contains a Soviet evaluation of the disarmament problem and sets forth specific measures which the Soviet Union is proposing to have the Soviet-American talks in Geneva on limiting nuclear armaments in Europe make further progress.

TASS notes that the publication of Dmitry Ustinov's interview would be contrary to what is advocated by the White House, since it exposes the essence of President Reagan's one-sided "zero option" which was predictably unacceptable to the Soviet Union. Clearly fearing a further development in the public movement against the militarist policies pursued by the US administration, the White House has decided to clamp down on any publication of the Soviet position and to conceal it from the public at large.

LASSO SWISHING OVER EUROPE

Analyzing the relations between the United States and Western Europe, which of late have taken a turn for the worse, V. Lomakin writes the following in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.

We are witnesses to a growing disparity between global views on developments in the world. The West Europeans are stunned by the primitive complex of anti-communism which makes Washington see "Moscow's intrigues" as the cause of all its troubles and failures. Thinking people in Western Europe regard as naive and dangerous the American desire to use the nuclear stick to sow fear throughout the world.

The Europeans do not intend to give up detente. They want their continent to be turned into a peaceful zone, whereas the United States is designing a new strategy for nuclear war.

This is the gist of the difference. In approach between the Old World and the Wild American West, and this difference will continue to determine their attitude to worldwide developments. There is too much at stake both the well-being and security of Europeans, who have every intention of fighting for them.

600,000 DIED IN CYCLONES IN BANGLADESH

Dacca. More than 600 thousand people died in cyclones and hurricanes which swept over Bangladesh between 1970 and 1980.

These figures appear in a report published in Dacca. Apart from loss of human lives, the elements caused considerable damage to property. Specialists are afraid that after a period of relative calm, Bangladesh has entered another decade of cyclones, notes the "New Nation" newspaper.

ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre, Cinema and TV Stars

LYUDMILA SERGIENKO



The main role in the Bolshoi Theatre production of Shostakovich's opera "Katerina Ismailova", based on themes from Lekov's "A Lady Macbeth of Mzensk District", is sung by the young soloist, Lyudmila Sergienko.

"What sort of person is Katerina? A debauchee, a victim, or a murderer? Is she calculating or in love to the extent that she goes off her head? Is she unreasonable or plain rebellious? A person of strong or weak character? It is possible that all these traits form part of her, without any one of them being particularly emphasized." It was in this way that Boris Pokrovsky, the producer of "Katerina Ismailova", interpreted the role to Sergienko.

And it is thus that Sergienko portrays Katerina on the stage. Her Katerina, moreover, is "a loving woman, a woman of deep feeling, in no way sentimental", just as Shostakovich saw her.

Lyudmila Sergienko graduated from the vocal faculty of the Kharkov Institute of the Arts. It is of interest that during this period her voice underwent several changes. Though she began by singing arias of a lyrical-coloratura soprano, her voice was later defined as being a mezzo-soprano. And it was not until she appeared with the Kharkov Opera and Ballet Company that it was discovered she was in fact a lyrical-dramatic soprano, possessing a unique and unusual tone and light timbre.

Having successfully passed a competition to become a soloist with the Bolshoi Theatre, Sergienko was sent to Milan to complete her studies at La Scala. There she worked on the roles of Toska, of Amela in "Un ballo in maschera" and on the soprano part in Verdi's "Requiem". Since 1974, Sergienko has been a soloist with the Bolshoi Theatre. Her debut here was in "The Snow Maiden", based on the work by Alexander Ostrovsky and put to music by Rimsky-Korsakov.

In "The Snow Maiden", said the producer of the opera, the well-known theatre director Boris Ravnitskiy, "both poetry and music are impregnated with the power of love, with dramatic and tragic conflict". And it is these very conflicts that rage in the character of Katerina, as it is sung by Sergienko.

As Nedda, in Leoncavallo's opera "Il Pagliaccio", Sergienko portrays a determined well-integrated person who is overcome by passion.

In the forthcoming season, Lyudmila Sergienko will be singing in Prokofiev's opera "Betrothal in the Monastery". My Luise, says the singer, is a fun-loving tomboy. This role is diametrically opposed to that of Katerina and it will be interesting working on it as it is always fun discovering something new in oneself.

Margarita ANOKHINA

Lyudmila Sergienko in Tchaikovsky's opera "Eugene Onegin". Photo by Georgi Solovyov

NEAR EAST TOUR FOR BYELORUSSIAN BALLET COMPANY

The ballet company of the Byelorussian Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre is on tour in Syria and Jordan. For a period of three weeks they will give performances in Damascus, taking part in the cultural programme of the international fair, as well as in Baalbek, Syria, and in Amman, the Jordanian capital.

This is our first tour to the Near East, said the company's chief choreographer, V. Elizavetina.

Over the past seven years, the Belgian firm, General Equipment Medical (GEM), has regularly sold this country X-ray installations including with remote control. More than sixty sets of equipment of different types have been sent here over the years are in use in medical establishments in Moscow, Leningrad and other cities. Starting with one million Belgian francs' worth of equipment in 1975, the firm is now selling this country goods which cost between \$80 and 130 million francs a year.

The firm sees its hopes for further success in the Soviet market on the possibilities of bilateral industrial cooperation, our correspondent was told by Josef Stots, head of GEM's export department. Some six months ago the firm signed a contract with Medexport to purchase within the next few months Soviet-made generators which it intends to use in their X-ray installations. In the future, the firm intends to use the Soviet generator on a large scale, which will not only make its installations twice as cheap on the Soviet market but will also enable their sellings in other countries as the demand for such installations is growing.

The firm not only takes part in international exhibitions held in this country, but also organizes its own. It intends to arrange another exhibition in October and November this year. The firm will invite not only technical specialists but also Belgian medical scientists to take part.

We shall concentrate our attention mainly on the exchange of scientific and technical achievements and know-how in the development of pure-blood breeding and half-thoroughbred horse-breeding, said Boris Zilberman, President of the 33rd International Congress of the socialist countries in horse-breeding, to open in Moscow. We shall also sum up the results of last year's cooperation.

Eighty participants from other countries have been given the opportunity to visit stud-farms in the North Caucasus and in the Primorye steppes. At the Voskhod stud, where the famous Anulin—three times winner of the European Prize—was bred and stabled, they will study the experience of breeding thoroughbreds for riding. They will meet Arab breeds at the Terkey stud.

At last year's auction in Pyatigorsk, Penzayar—this stud's stallion—was sold for one million dollars. This summer the Arab horses were sold at a very high price (up to 300,000 dollars).

Participants from all the countries participating in the Congress will race at the Moscow racecourse on the final day of the Congress.

Semyon SEMYONOV

se metallurgical companies use the Soviet methods for the continuous casting of steel, for evaporation to cool furnaces and for the dry extinguishing of coke. In the past five-year plan period, firms from a dozen countries purchased more than 700 Soviet licenses.

The Moscow International Trade Centre was recently the venue for the 10th International Conference on Non-Destructive Testing with 1,200 scientists and experts from 34 countries participating. The International Non-Destructive Testing Committee and the USSR Academy of Sciences were the co-sponsors of the conference.

Over 300 papers were discussed in the course of the conference, dealing with both fundamental and application problems of non-destructive testing, including at nuclear power stations. The problems of automation, standardization, metrology and testing were discussed.

The conference was complemented by an international exhibition, "Introspect-82", which drew many leading foreign companies and 40 Soviet organizations with a great deal of expertise in this field.

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